



The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 10: Sunday 7th June 2020

Trinity Sunday

Dear Friends,

A couple of days ago, in the Bible reading notes that I use, I came across a very powerful sentence. The writer had been discussing the fact that while many people pray when they are in trouble, what we actually need to do is to make prayer part of the pattern of our daily lives. The sentence that struck me was this: “How can we move from seeking God in moments of distress, towards letting the pursuit of God form the theme music of our lives?”

That encouragement to let “the pursuit of God form the theme music of our lives” expresses a powerful truth in a memorable way. We all recognise the theme tunes to certain films or television programmes, but perhaps we don't always allow the “theme music” of the ways of God to shape our lives, or allow that same “theme music” to work through us to shape our local communities and wider society.

The deeply distressing news reports from America, which have filled our screens over recent days as people responded to the murder of George Floyd, are a powerful reminder that our world is sometimes far from reflecting the “theme music” of God's Kingdom.

We should pray for the USA and its leaders in these days of the exposure of the pain of a deeply divided society. We should pray that all nations will address issues of injustice, and more clearly live by the “theme music” of God's love. And, as we pray for our world and our nation, let us not forget to pray “Lord let it begin with me” so that the “theme music” of God's Kingdom shapes our lives too.

Yours in His service,

Chris Blake



Worship Reflection

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100 v 1-3)

Hymn (StF 11)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!



Prayer

Mighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, save us from bringing you down to our level, from limiting you to our narrow horizon and our limited understanding. Help us instead to rise to new heights, catching a glimpse of your sovereign power and of the ways in which you are able to work in our lives and in the lives of others. Amen.

Bible Reading (2 Corinthians 13 v 11-14)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Reflection

I wonder if you have a relative or friend who, when writing a letter or post card to you, always has something more to say. The letter or card is almost completed and then the ‘extra thing’ that the writer meant to say is squeezed in at the end into a very small space.

I like to imagine that the short phrases that we often find at the end of Paul's letters are like that. He hasn't much time or space available, and so he resorts to short punchy phrases such as those we read in the verses quoted above.

However, Paul then follows this series of short statements with what is perhaps one of the most repeated verses in the Bible. Often at the end of a service or a church meeting the person leading will say to the others present, "Let us say the words of the grace together" and it is the words of that final verse of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians which are spoken.

That familiar and powerful verse reminds us that on Trinity Sunday we are invited to worship God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This statement describes a truth which stretches the limits of our human mind, but Paul's words are also deeply rooted in human experience. They remind us that, as we worship God, we respond to God the Father who, out of love, created all that exists, and we respond to God the Son who took the initiative of grace to reach out to each one of us through his death on the cross, and we respond to God the Holy Spirit whose action calls us into fellowship with each other. The Trinity is not a philosophical idea – but a description of our experience of the reality of God who is Three in One and One in Three.



Prayers of Intercession

We pray especially this week for -

- the people of the United States of America and their leaders
- the strength and courage to speak out against injustice and racism in all places
- those who continue to grieve and who continue to be concerned for family members who are unwell

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

Hymn (StF 67)

This, this is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend:
whose love is as great as his power
and knows neither knows measure nor end.

'Tis Jesus the first and the last;
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come

Final Prayer O consuming fire, O Spirit of love,
descend into our hearts and there transform us
until we are fire of your fire, love of your love, and
Christ himself is formed within us. Amen.

The Methodist Church is encouraging us all to 'tell our stories'. You are invited to choose



a Bible or hymn or song verse, or perhaps a prayer that you have read or written, and to describe why what you have chosen is particularly important to you. Contributions need to be no longer than 250 words.

*This week's contribution is from **Rachel Burrell**, the Family Worker from North Camp.*

**Faith as small as a mustard seed moves mountains, moves mountains,
Faith as small as a mustard seed moves mountains by the power of God.
Believe what Jesus said was true,
Believe he meant it just for you,
Wait and see what God will do
when we pray, when we pray.**

I don't know about you, but I have often felt inadequate about my faith. I had a friend in 6th Form who I was convinced was the perfect Christian. She had so much faith and was so secure and open with it. We were once editing a short film for our coursework when I told her I was having a difficult day. She made us stop and pray about it in the middle of the computer room because she just knew that it was what we needed to do. I would never have dreamt about doing something like that. I've been incredibly blessed to meet a lot of very faithful people in my life and sometimes it feels overwhelming. If God can use that person, why on earth would He use me?

Based on Matthew 17:20, Doug Horley's 'Faith as small as a mustard seed', was my



favourite action song growing up (partly because the actions were in British Sign Language!). The song still reminds me that on days when it's hard, when I have more questions than answers, or when I just feel inadequate, all I need is the tiniest amount of faith and God will do the rest.